

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 11, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

The hybrid polymer layer of the devices of the present invention can be formulated to release large amounts of drug at first, followed by a sustained drug release over extended time periods to achieve more efficacious performance. We have now found that surprisingly high drug loads that were not contemplated in prior patents U.S. Patents 5,069,899 and 5,525,348 can be incorporated in the hybrid polymer layers. These and other prior art patents show coatings impregnated with anti-thrombogenic, anti-microbial and other agents only to the extent to prevent inflammation infection, etc., resulting from the placement of the device in the body ("prophylactic use") and not in amounts that permit the use of the device as a means of delivery of amounts of drugs effective for the therapeutic treatment of such pathologic conditions prior to the introduction of the device ("therapeutic use"). Such elevated loadings can be one, two or even three orders of magnitude greater than is employed in prior art coatings. For example, a device containing prophylactic quantities of a medically active agent, anti-thrombogenic, antibiotic, etc., may contain several ~~milligrams~~ micrograms of the agent per square centimeter of the coating surface, whereas a device according to this invention may contain hundreds or thousands of ~~milligrams~~ micrograms per square centimeter. The elevated drug loads carried in the hybrid polymer layers therefore make it possible to insert devices that are capable of sustaining greatly elevated medicament(s) burdens, such as anti-cancer drugs in tumors, over extended time periods. The drug release rates can be controlled over wide ranges by several factors, including drug solubility in water and in the patient medium, diffusion rates of body fluids into the hybrid polymer layer, ratio of the drug or drugs to the polymer matrix in the polymer layer, chemical/physical interactions between the drug or drugs and polymer matrix, the degree of cross-linking in the hybrid polymer layer, the layer thickness of the hybrid polymer base, and the relative proportions of hydrophilic and hydrophobic polymer materials in the coating.